

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EGEN, UR

SUBJECT: APPARENT DISCREPANCIES IN MID-YEAR SOVIET PRODUCTION
STATISTICS

REF: A) MOSCOW 11865, B) MOSCOW 11221

1. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSION AND FURTHER ANALYSIS OF SIX MONTH
1976 PRODUCTION RESULTS, (REFTELS), WITH ECONOFFS FROM OTHER
WESTERN EMBASSIES, WE HAVE COME UPON APPARENT DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN
FIGURES FOR MID-YEAR 1975 AS PUBLISHED IN EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA NO 3
0,
1975, AND THOSE FOR MID-YEAR 1976 IN THE SAME JOURNAL, NO 31, 1976.

2. IN TEN CATEGORIES, 1975 MID-YEAR RESULTS AS REPORTED, WHETHER
GIVEN IN VALUE OR GROSS OUTPUT TERMS, EITHER EXCEEDED THOSE FOR
MID-YEAR 1976 OR REMAINED UNCHANGED. YET, IN EACH CASE, IN
PERCENTAGE TERMS, 1976 PRODUCTION IS SHOWN TO EXCEED 1975 OUTPUT.

3. THE CATEGORIES ARE AS FOLLOWS: METAL CUTTING MACHINE TOLLS; INSTRU

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MENTS, AUTOMATED EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS; OILFIELD
EQUIPMENT (WITHOUT AIR COOLING MECHANISMS); CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT

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AND SPARE PARTS; LIGHT INDUSTRY EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS;

COMPUTERS CALCULATING EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS; EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS FOR FOOD, DAIRY-MEAT, AND FISH INDUSTRY; CARDBOARD; GLASS AND CRYSTAL TABLEWARE; AND FURNITURE.

4. IN ALL CASES, THE PUBLISHED DEFINITION OF THE CATEGORY REMAINED THE SAME OVER THE TWO YEARS EXCEPT FOR OILFIELD EQUIPMENT WHICH IN 1975 INCLUDED ALL FORMS WHILE IN 1976 IN APPARENTLY INCLUDED ONLY EQUIPMENT WITHOUT AIR COOLING MECHANISMS.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE EXAMINED SOME POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS FOR THE DISCREPANCIES SUCH AS CHANGES IN DEFINITION OF THE PRODUCT, OR DELIBERATE MANIPULATION OF STATISTICS, BUT WE ARE UNABLE TO COME UP WITH ANY DEFINITIVE ANSWER. EMBASSY WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE VIEWS OF WASHINGTON AGENCIES AS WELL AS ANY INFORMATION ON WHETHER SUCH PROBLEMS HAVE FREQUENTLY OCCURRED BEFORE.

STOESSEL

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